



NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE • FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Indiana Farm Service Agency
5981 Lakeside Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Contact: Donna Ferguson
317-290-3315
donna.ferguson@in.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 15, 2012

PR-12-29

All Ninety-Two Indiana Counties Now Designated Primary or Contiguous Natural Disaster Areas

Indianapolis, August 15, 2012 - Julia A. Wickard, State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Indiana announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has designated an additional 12 counties to the original 66 counties in Indiana as primary natural disaster areas due to losses caused by extreme drought. The 12 new counties are indicated with an asterisk:

*Adams	Allen	Bartholomew	*Benton	Blackford
Boone	Brown	Carroll	Cass	Clay
Clinton	Crawford	Daviess	*Dearborn	*Decatur
DeKalb	Delaware	Dubois	Elkhart	*Fayette
Fountain	*Franklin	Fulton	Gibson	Grant
Greene	Hamilton	Hancock	Hendricks	Henry
Howard	Huntington	Jackson	*Jennings	Johnson
Knox	Kosciusko	LaGrange	Lawrence	Madison
Marion	Marshall	Martin	Miami	Monroe
Montgomery	Morgan	Noble	Orange	Owen
Parke	Perry	Pike	Posey	Pulaski
Putnam	*Ripley	Rush	Shelby	Spencer
St. Joseph	*Starke	Steuben	Sullivan	Tippecanoe
Tipton	*Union	Vanderburgh	Vermillion	Vigo
Wabash	Warren	Warrick	*Washington	*Wayne
Wells	White	Whitley		

"Today with the U.S. Drought Monitor fast track designation process, all 92 counties have been declared primary or contiguous natural disaster areas. This is good news for Indiana farmers as they all qualify for USDA low interest emergency loans," said Wickard. "At this time no other disaster assistance is available as the disaster programs in the 2008 Farm Bill authorized by Congress expired in September 2011. So, until Congress moves forward on a new Farm Bill the only relief is low interest emergency loans."

Seven additional counties also qualify for natural disaster assistance because their counties are contiguous to the designated counties. The 7 new counties are indicated with an asterisk.

*Clark	*Floyd	Harrison	Jasper
Jay	*Jefferson	Lake	LaPorte
*Newton	*Ohio	*Porter	Randolph
Scott	*Switzerland		



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

All counties listed above indicated with an asterisk were designated natural disaster areas on August 15, 2012, making all qualified farm operators in the designated areas eligible for low interest emergency (EM) loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of the declaration to apply for loans to help cover part of their actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability. FSA has a variety of programs, in addition to the EM loan program, to help eligible farmers recover from adversity.

Recent changes in the disaster program will provide faster and more flexible assistance to farmers devastated by natural disasters. There are three significant improvements related to Secretarial disaster designations: a final rule that simplifies the process for Secretarial disaster designations and will result in a 40 percent reduction in processing time for most counties affected by disasters; a reduced interest rate for emergency loans that effectively lowers the current rate from 3.75 percent to 2.25 percent; and a payment reduction on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands qualified for emergency haying and grazing in 2012, from 25 to 10 percent.

USDA encourages all farmers to contact their crop insurance companies and local FSA offices, as applicable, to report damages to crops or livestock loss. In addition, USDA reminds livestock producers to keep thorough records of losses, including additional expenses for such things as feed purchased due to lost supplies. Additional resources to help farmers deal with drought may be found at <http://www.usda.gov/disaster>.

#



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).